

It has also been decided that the Strategic Public Sector Enterprises would be those in the areas of:

- (1) Arms and amunitions and the allied items of defence equipment, defence aircrafts and warships.
- (2) Atomic energy (except in the areas related to the generation of nuclear power and applications of radiation and radio-isotopes to agriculture medicine and non-strategic industries).
- (3) Railway transport.

Moreover, for the non-strategic Public Sector Enterprises, the reduction of Government share to 26% **would not be automatic** and the manner and pace of doing so would be worked out on a case to case basis. A decision in regard to the percentage of disinvestment i.e., Government share going down to less than 51% or to 26%, would be taken on the following consideration:—

- (i) whether the industrial sector requires the presence of the public sector as a countervailing force to prevent concentration of power in private hands, and
- (ii) whether the industrial sector requires a proper regulatory mechanism to protect the consumer interests before Public Sector Enterprises are privatised.

No separate scheme has been formulated to disinvest all public sector industrial units.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

(d) The realization from disinvestment of equity depends on various factors like market conditions, financial performance of the company, terms and conditions of sale, interest of the investor(s)/buyer (s), advise of the professional consultants etc. No estimates of amounts likely to accrue from disinvestment can, therefore, be made.

Geeta Krishnan Committee Report

†*72. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

DR. D. MASTHAN:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received Geeta Krishnan Committee's Report;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the date on which this report was received by Government ;

(c) whether any action has also been taken by Government on the basis of recommendations of this Committee; and

(d) if so, the details of action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A copy of the Geeta Krishnan Committee Report pertaining to the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting was received in this Ministry on 25.09.2000.

(c) and (d) Consultation with Media Units of the Ministry have been held at the level of the Secretary and the Minister to elicit their views on the recommendations contained in the report of the Expenditure Reforms Committee (ERC). Committee have also been constituted to review some of the media units of the Ministry. The report of the ERC has also been discussed during the Consultative Committee Meeting of MPs attached to the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.

Inter-ministerial Group for closure of unviable PSUs

***73. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY:** Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether an inter-ministerial Group has been entrusted the work of considering the closure of unviable public sector undertakings in phased manner in order to check losses to public exchequer; and;

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) as per the information available no such group has been formed.

(b) does not arise.

Separate doordarshan channel for agriculture

***74. SHRI K. C. KONDAIAH:** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka Government has requested the Central Government to start a separate doordarshan channel exclusively dedicated to agriculture; and